

September 28, 2010

A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, was held in the Council Hall of the Municipal Building at 7:00 p.m., September 28, 2010.

Members present: Mayor W. D. Tharp; Councilwoman Mary L. Flood; Councilman Guy E. Murray, Jr.; Councilman Steve C. Rush; Councilman C. G. Stanley, Jr.; Councilman James A. Vest; and Vice Mayor Robert T. Wandrei

Members absent: None

Staff present: City Manager Charles P. Kolakowski; City Attorney W. W. Berry, IV; and Clerk of the Council Teresa W. Hatcher

Mayor Tharp opened the meeting and led all present in saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Clerk of Council administered the Oath of Office to Guy E. Murray, Jr.

Mayor Tharp welcomed Mr. Murray to City Council.

Mayor Tharp declared that the minutes of an adjourned Council meeting held on September 14, 2010, and the minutes of a regular Council meeting held on September 14, 2010, were approved as distributed.

City Manager Kolakowski reported on the following:

- Centerfest was held on September 25 – the weather was good – and everyone seemed to enjoy the festivities
- The rain on September 26 and 27 was needed to replenish the Stoney Creek Reservoir

Councilman Vest spoke about the high cost of food at Centerfest and asked if it would be possible to go back to having local people provide the food.

The City Manager will mention Mr. Vest's concern to the Main Street people.

Councilman Stanley, Chairman of the Water & Sewer Committee, reported that the Committee met earlier in the evening and discussed some revised language that staff will present for further discussion.

The Consent Agenda consisted of the followings items:

- Request by the Bedford Area YMCA to hold its Annual Peaks of Otter Christmas Classic Foot Race on Saturday, December 4, 2010, and to block the following streets from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.:

Peaks Street, Whitfield Drive, Oakwood Street, Longwood Avenue,
Hampton Ridge Avenue and Elm Street

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- Council is requested to reappoint Ms. Frances Coles and Ms. Tracey Young to serve four-year terms on the Redevelopment and Housing Authority, said terms to expire October 13, 2014.

On motion by Vice Mayor Wandrei, seconded by Councilman Vest, voted upon and carried unanimously by a roll call vote, Council accepted the Consent Agenda. Roll call vote follows:

Councilwoman Flood	aye
Councilman Murray	aye
Councilman Rush	aye
Councilman Stanley	aye
Councilman Vest	aye
Vice Mayor Wandrei	aye
Mayor Tharp	aye

Ms. Kelly Hitchcock, Senior Planner with Virginia's Region 2000 Local Government Council gave a power point presentation regarding the Draft Region 2000 Bicycle Plan.

Councilman Vest voiced his concern regarding safety issues with bicycles and asked Police Captain Bennett to present information regarding accidents involving bicycles.

Captain Bennett reported that four traffic crashes have occurred between January 1, 2010, and September 28.

Ms. Hitchcock stated the safety issues will be addressed with an educational campaign.

Councilman Rush stated that Peaks Road (Route 43) is probably the most heavily used by cyclists, but there are no shoulders on the road for bikes.

Ms. Hitchcock said the reason to include such roads in the plan is that VDOT regulations have changed and there is a new requirement that when the roads are resurfaced, a two foot shoulder will be added.

Councilman Vest asked if there have been any studies about the cost to do the signage, etc.

Ms. Hitchcock stated that specific costs per corridor have not been broken down.

Mayor Tharp stated he was concerned about safety.

City Manager Kolakowski stated in 1997 as part of the planned public gardens in front of the Library, the City purchased the John Wharton Cottage at 309 N. Bridge Street from Doctor Dennis A. Robinson, Jr., and simultaneously re-conveyed it to the Wharton Memorial Foundation. In the deed from the City to the Wharton Memorial Foundation, the City reserved a garden easement and restricted the uses of the building. The allowed uses are "offices, certain non-profit meeting rooms, museums and art galleries, bookstores, and "such other uses as permitted under the City zoning as are determined by

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the City Council to be compatible with the Central Library and other City properties adjacent thereto.”

The City Manager reported that Sara Braaten, President of the Wharton Memorial Foundation, has advised the City that the Foundation has negotiated a lease for use of the main floor for a wine and cheese shop. The tenant’s plans include sale of wine, cheese, and deli products, and operation of a small delicatessen. They plan to display art works by local artists and have special events such as wine and cheese tastings with acoustical entertainment. The Foundation requests that the City approve such uses.

Mr. Kolakowski said the City Council has previously reviewed such requests. In April 1998 the Council approved use of the main floor and basement floor for retail gift shop. On May 26, 1998 the Council approved lease of the ground floor for a group of occupational, physical and speech therapists. On October 10, 2000, the Council approved use of the main floor as a pharmacy or drug store and use of the top and basement floors as residences.

The City Manager said the City administration recommends that Council, by proper motion, approve the request from Wharton Memorial Foundation to use the main floor of the John Wharton Cottage located at 309 N. Bridge Street as a retail shop for the sale of wine, cheese and deli products and operation of a small delicatessen.

On motion by Councilman Stanley, seconded by Vice Mayor Wandrei, voted upon and carried unanimously by a roll call vote, Council approved the recommendation regarding the use of the John Wharton House. Roll call vote follows:

Councilman Murray	aye
Councilman Rush	aye
Councilman Stanley	aye
Councilman Vest	aye
Vice Mayor Wandrei	aye
Councilwoman Flood	aye
Mayor Tharp	aye

Mayor Tharp adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p.m.